(b) The annual production capacity of Magadh and Amrapali open case projects is 12.0 million tonnes of coal per year each.

(c) Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) has been appointed as consultant to advise the appropriate route for development of Magadh and Amrapali projects. A core group at CIL is also examining the various options for early implementation of the projects. Discussions have been held with representatives of various mining companies by the consultants.

Production of Aluminium

1667. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to increase the production of Aluminium and alumina;

(b) the achievement made in this regard in Eighth & Ninth plans; and

(c) the details of the contribution of NALCO thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) With a view to increase production of alumina and aluminium, the Government have decontrolled the aluminium sector, exempted it from the provisions of compulsory licensing and opened this sector progressively to private including foreign direct investment.

(b) and (c) In the 8th plan period, the total production of alumina in the country was 7971043 Metric Tonne (MT), and NALCO' contribution therein was about 50%. The total production of aluminium in the 8th plan period was 2478231 MT, with NALCO contributing about 39%. In the 9th plan period (upto 2000-01), the total production of alumina in the country was about 7812723 MT, and NALCO's contribution therein was about 46%. The total production of aluminium in the 9th plan period (upto 2001-02) was 2358496 MT, with NALCO contributing about 33%.

Gold and copper mines discovered near Ajmer

1668. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold and copper mines have been discovered near Ajmer in Hathipur village of Shrinagar Panchayat Samiti, as reported in the Asian Age dated 2nd September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the specific potential geographical zone and adjoining areas against unlawful excavations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Department of Mines, the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan had undertaken drilling of boreholes near Hathibhatta village, Srinagar Panchayat Samiti, District Ajmer. However, only copper mineralisation has been indicated but no mineralised zone has been identified. Gold has not been detected.

A block of 103.125 sq. km. has been reserved by the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan for prospecting as provided under Rule 74 of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

Sign of land subsidence in the coal mines areas of Dhanbad

1669. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large areas of coal mines, particularly in the district of Dhanbad in Jharkhand have been showing consistent sign of land subsidence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the approximate number of population in these areas facing threats of land subsidence;

(c) whether Government are implementing any programme for shifting and rehabilitation of the affected people residing in these endangered areas to a safer place and arresting such subsidence in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Unplanned land subsidence is taking place in the coal mining areas mainly due to old unscientific underground mining of the past (prior to Nationalisation) and also due to illegal mining.

(b) Details of major unplanned subsidence which occurred in Dhanbad during the last three years is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

As per the report of the high level Committee (under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal), December, 1996), number of houses affected by fire and